

Date: June 14, 2021

Time: 6:45 – 9:00pm

Location: Remote Participation, via Zoom

## Agenda

1. **Zoom Protocols (2 mins)**
2. **Review of Mission Statement and Group Meeting Protocols (3 mins)**
3. **Introductions (15 mins)**
4. **Discussion led by Laura Kiesel about the Parking Waiver Exemption Program (15 mins.)**
5. **Update from Carlos Morales about the Police Civilian Advisory Board Study Committee (30 mins.)**
6. **Discussion of possible summer work, e.g., updating DTG's social media, developing strategies for attracting new members, etc. (20 mins.)**
7. **Discussion about whether to have summer meeting(s) and confirmation of dates for September and October meetings (10 mins.)**
8. **Upcoming events and any reports from members' attendance at events (10 mins.)**
9. **Approve May Minutes (5 mins.)**
10. **New business brought by members (10 mins.)**

## Minutes:

**In attendance:** Rebecca Gruber, Katell Guellec, Kelda Fontenot, Brooks Harrelson, Elizabeth Dray, Louise Popkin, Shafaq Islam, Laura Kiesel, Lynette Culverhouse, Carlos Morales, Sarah McKinnon

Zoom protocols and meeting norms were communicated.

There was some discussion about whether this would be the last DTG meeting that would meet virtually. It is not 100% clear yet. Dates and location will need to be determined for the fall.

**Introductions:** Words that describe how you're feeling: psyched, relief, tired, energized, overjoyed, distracted, happy, liberated, trepidation, nervous, peaceful, uncertain, excited, great.

**Parking ban update:** Laura Kiesel provided updates on the two-year process that has resulted in an option for waiving the parking ban for those who are low-income or disabled. It's now easier to find on the town website; before this it was hard to find the information about the program. Also, the criteria when written had included handicap plates but not placards, and this is problematic. After five months, as of May 2021, the placards are now included.

Further communication is needed because many low-income residents in public housing are not aware of this program. All town officials, departments, and commissions need to know about it, as well as residents. Laura isn't sure how residents indicate that they are eligible, whether it's a sticker, giving APD a license plate number, etc.

How can DTG help?:

- A suggestion was made that we email Jillian Harvey to recommend a section on the town website that lists all resources for low-income residents, including this program. Lynette said she will draft a letter from DTG and work with Rebecca on this.
- Kelda said she would be willing to contact the Housing Authority (AHA and HCA) about this and will work with Rebecca on a letter from DTG.
- People wondered about getting the Disability Commission involved, but the Commission was originally not in favor of the program.
- Another idea was to enlist the support of APD to let people know about the program when they issue tickets and temporary overnight parking ban waivers. Katell said she will reach out to APD about this.

**Police Civilian Advisory Board:** Please see slide show for more detailed and comprehensive notes. Carlos shared a slide presentation with DTG that is attached to these minutes. He started by talking about police accountability at the town, state, and federal levels. Important State legislation that needs to be understood that includes: police certification - prevents officers from being fired/disciplined in one town and then moving to another. Please send Carlos info and articles at his email [carlos.j.morales@gmail.com](mailto:carlos.j.morales@gmail.com)

1. Reviewed historical models of Civilian Review Boards
  - a. Investigative
    - i. Need professional investigators - \$
  - b. Review focused
    - i. Need people also
  - c. Auditor/Monitor
    - i. Need to collect and understand the data over time to look at patterns that may be problematic
2. Need to define the scope of a CRB
3. Reviewed the Cambridge Police Review Board's hybrid model (formed 1984 and updated in 2004 )
  - a. Citizen input and participation in reviewing policies, practices and procedures

- b. Impartial, independent and fair investigations
- c. Functions
  - i. Offer consultations to Chief
  - ii. Receive and resolve complaints
  - iii. Recommend disciplinary actions,
  - iv. Subpoena power to call witnesses, take testimony and require evidence
  - v. Quarterly reports to the city
- d. Staff (see slide)
- e. Other
  - i. Reflect diversity,
  - ii. Review Dept. budget
  - iii. Citizens can call for a forum to ask questions of police department
- 4. How can a Civilian Police Review Board help that a Human Rights Commission can't? (see slide for more info)
  - a. Accountability builds bridges, strengthens trust and relationships with residents
  - b. Supports effective policies and policing and regulations and better interaction with the community.
- 5. To decide what to put forward, Group must consider specifics of Arlington - what is right for us and strikes the best balance
  - a. Size, # of complaints
  - b. Important to have a safe space, inform policies and call meetings.
  - c. Atty Heim was asked to create info to public about what part of State/Federal police policies apply to Arlington
- 6. Questions/suggestions/comments from DTG
  - a. The Board should take up the question of educating us on the multiple levels of oversight (Federal, State and Local) would be useful to understand what the responsibilities of each level are and how an investigation escalates or deescalates among these levels
  - b. "Safe Space" is in direct contradiction to open meeting laws so specific architecture needed to create such a space for residents to report to the board in confidence
  - c. De-certification seems all or nothing so it is a harsh penalty that courts may be reluctant to impose; may need 3 strikes your out or some steps/framework about what it is that leads to de-certification to make it possible to adopt
  - d. Does Arlington have any input into the de-certification process, should provide input/helping to define. Currently at the State level.
  - e. Body Cameras update--developing a plan for use.
  - f. What are the group dynamics/politics? Do you see consensus developing about how much authority to give to the board? Is there pushback? The

Washington Post article mentioned performative CRBs that look good but are hamstrung.

- i. APD is providing data that should probably be public data on its website.
- ii. How can we have investigative power and a budget to do it?
- iii. How can we piggyback off of the structure that the State is providing?
- iv. Need an institution that can work in the future with a possibly different APD chief.
- v. Deep concern about community meetings and outreach - police presence at these meetings; how will they actually do outreach to reach the people that really need to be at the meetings; what if they don't but then assume everything is alright?
  1. Town Communications Officer is responsible for the communication plan - this is failing in Arlington
    - a. Some towns have a sign that goes on bus stops with info about how to interact with the gov't in a safe way.
- vi. Concern that the Town does not listen to people that don't agree with them.
- vii. Concern that a CRB will be full of the same people who always have power in Town and not serve the people that need to be served.
- viii. Feeling that the AHRC dismisses complaints that involve APD - including for the officer involved with the incident last winter that is currently under investigation.
- ix. Police footprint needs to be diminished overall even if there is a CRB - don't want it to be an excuse for bigger budget, more police
- x. Budget for CRB - Rainbow Commission was able to get a budget, generally get what they ask for.
- xi. Officer presence at meeting - Chief Flaherty for the Rainbow Commission - The Rainbow Commission tells her to sometimes not show up at meetings at all or not in uniform and she listens.
- xii. Current police force and Chief are willing to look at policy - but don't know what future employees will do.
- xiii. Mainly white town so concerned that POC who come forward with complaints will be outed/figured out.
- xiv. It is easy for white people to weaponize police, it is a huge ask to ask vulnerable community members to come forward and share.
  1. Should we ask them WAY before any community meeting - How does it look for you? How would it ever feel okay for

- you to speak to a group like this? To get discussion input on the goal of accountability and parameters.
- 2. How do we empower them? Can we ask "Would you be willing to tell us what that would look like?"
- 3. What if they say this (a CRB) is not it, not what they need to feel safe here or at least not in this way? Can the Study group pivot and handle that?
- xv. Community policing training - the community doesn't hear about what the APD is doing for training. Maybe the APD needs to educate the community about what they do for their training, what their procedures are, what their training is against bias and disengagement tactics. They do 40 hours a year in training - very different and a lot more than other towns.

### **May Minutes:**

1. Motion to approve put forward and seconded; unanimous vote to accept.

### **Discussion of Possible Summer Work:**

1. What is happening over the summer that we need to keep our eyes on?
  - a. Community conversations -
  - b. Usually plan Town Day but not this year
  - c. Social occasion?
2. Discussion about the website -
  - a. Should we pull it down as it is misleading/unclear/hard to find?
  - b. Since it is outdated it makes AFR come across as either not inclusive or shut down. Some people think DTG is being intentionally misleading, some are annoyed.
  - c. Motion put forth to put the webpage on hiatus, and seconded. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn.
  - d. Discussion proceeded about the website, alternate language was agreed upon and published on home page.

### **Discussion about whether to have summer meeting(s) and confirmation of dates for September and October meetings:**

1. Will not meet over the summer and will return in September
2. Rebecca will look into reserving a room monthly for the second Thursday or the first Wednesday
3. Discussion about remote vs in person. What is our quorum since we do not have the same definition of "membership," so don't have the same constraint. Not all rooms are ADA accessible or have internet to provide a remote/hybrid option.

#### New Business/ two announcements

1. DTG affiliated person is being asked to join the Arlington Reads group. - Brooks Harrelson and Sarah Mckinnon volunteered to share the role. Discussion about the diversity of the current committee. Sarah decided to step back and make space for diverse voices on the Committee if no one else is interested. Rebecca will put the invite out to the larger membership
2. Anniversary celebration - 250 years in 2025 of the events of April 19, 1775 - How to ensure varied experiences are celebrated/remembered/acknowledged that are not just European. Rebecca spoke to Arlington Representative - Clarissa Rowe and there is space for DTG to be involved.
  - a. Important story was shared - an Arlington kitchen woman who is a POC, helped capture British soldiers. Used to be re-enacted in Arlington as well as the Old Man of Menotomy who ambushed the supply train.
3. In addition, the Arlington Housing Authority's HCV Public Hearing and the Annual Plan Public Hearing will be held in person on June 16. For those who need help getting to the meeting or have a need for childcare, help can be arranged.